

Letters to the Editor

February 2013

Dear Editor

Your article about pewter bar tops [[Part 3 of the article, Issue 3.4](#)] caught my eye, mentioning as it did a new Edinburgh restaurant.

Though never really in need of an excuse to lunch out, it galvanised me into making a booking for a lunch with friends this January.

The Caledonian Hotel always had an Edinburgh following in the last half of the twentieth century, even though the station had been closed and the tracks removed in the early 70s, but the hotel had become a little tired. However, its reputation is reviving since its recent refurbishment under the Waldorf name.

Galvin's Bistro is on the ground floor, just off the hotel bar and lounge, which shows clearly the legacy of the old station entrance and its arches.

The day we went the bistro was not full, so I can't comment on the "atmosphere redolent of the bustling cosmopolitan railway hotels of the past", but the décor is certainly evocative. The menu is much more modern, though, than the rather predictable, often stodgy dishes I remember eating in such places in the past. It offered plenty of choice, using traditional and local ingredients throughout, all given a modern twist. We lunched well.

Oh, and the pewter bar is splendid, standing centrally in the restaurant area. But I just wish I had printed out a copy of *The Pewterer* to leave with the staff, because they were sadly not trained in any aspect of their USP. When I asked about the bar before we went in, they seemed puzzled as to my interest, and then I had to earn my lunch by explaining not only that it was made of pewter but - oh Shame! - what pewter was!

So it will be worth a return visit, if only to check whether the staff have learned to talk up the bar!

Thanks for an interesting magazine; I enjoy reading the articles.

Rosalind Grant-Robertson

[Home](#)